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interior because the mountain structures reflect more light than the level areas; at the *limb* the mountains form the entire visible reflecting background, the level plains and valleys not forming any part of it. I think we must look for a similar explanation in the case of *Mars*; though, as others have pointed out, other things being equal, very steep mountain slopes would be required.

The importance of making a series of short-exposure photographs in connection with other observations of the planet is very evident.

W. W. C.

#### THE LEVELS OF THE MERIDIAN CIRCLE.

A progressive change has been taking place in the level of the instrument, marked by exceptional uniformity with but little variation from day to day.

It seemed at first possible to connect the change with that of temperature, as the level correction decreased with the approach of cold weather. But whatever small part of the change follows from this cause is evidently masked by the regular movement. The fluctuations of temperature within periods of a few days have often been nearly up to the total range, while the level has shown no variation to correspond.

In tabulating the mean level by months, the temperature given is the mean of the thermometer readings at the times the levels were taken :

		b.	Temp.
1893.	September	+.663	54°.5
	October	+.648	55 .2
	November	+.623	50 .6
	December	+.561	48 .8
1894.	January	+.506	45 .3
	February	+.402	40 .3
	March	+.359	44 .3

The azimuth of the instrument shows no progressive change, the daily fluctuations being nearly as great as the whole variation.

R. H. T.

#### SCHIAPARELLI'S OBSERVATIONS OF BRIGHT SPOTS ON MARS.

On a previous page of this *Publication* I referred to SCHIAPARELLI's observations of bright spots on the planet *Mars*. I have translated his account of them as follows, from *Himmel und Erde*, Vol. I, pages 14, 15, 16, 159, for the benefit of *Mars* observers.

W. W. C.